

2004 WATER QUALITY REPORT



City of
West
University
Place



Water System
ID #TX1010027



In 2004, your water quality surpassed all state and federal requirements for drinking water.

How and Why We Test Your Water

Testing frequency

The City of West University Place tests your water daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, yearly, and at greater intervals for as many as 97 constituents. In 2004, we performed 5,404 individual tests on your water. Testing intervals are determined by state and federal regulatory agencies. The purpose of testing is to make sure your water quality remains within safe levels as determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For instance, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has assessed our source water and has determined that it has a low susceptibility to contaminants. Our sampling requirements are based on this susceptibility determination plus previous sample data.

Who tests the water

Technicians who are licensed by the TCEQ collect water samples from wells, storage facilities, points in the distribution system, and residents' homes. Much of our testing is done in the field, although some samples are sent to a state-licensed laboratory for analysis.

What we test for

In general, we test for the following substances: biological (such as viruses and bacteria); inorganic (such as salts and metals); organic (such as chemicals from industrial or petroleum use); radioactive, which occur naturally or result from oil/gas production and mining activities; and pesticides and herbicides. The tests also check levels of inorganic ions (nitrate, nitrite, fluoride, phosphate, sulfate, chloride and bromide) that are essential for human health in small quantities, but which in larger quantities can cause unpleasant taste and odor—or even illness.

Who sets the regulations

To ensure that your water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA regulates tap water, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water. Drinking water—including bottled water—may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

You may get more information about drinking water standards and the potential health effects of water constituents by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Where to Get More Information

When requesting information about the City of West University Place's water system, use our number (TX1010027), which is the number assigned to our water system by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Visit the EPA's water information site at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

You may also call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Water quality data for community water systems throughout the U.S. are available on the Internet at www.waterdata.com. Previous years' water quality reports for the City of West University Place are available at www.westu.org.

You are welcome to contact Patrick Walters, Operations Superintendent for the City of West University Place, with questions about your water, the source water assessment, or our system protection efforts. He may be reached at 713-662-5858 or PWalters@westu.org.

En Español

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomar. Si tiene preguntas o discusiones sobre este reporte, favor de llamar al tel. 713-662-5846 para hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

Test Results

The water provided by the City of West University Place met or surpassed all state and federal requirements for drinking water in 2004. There were no violations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The table on the facing page shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every contaminant we detected in the water—even in the minutest traces—is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance and the amount detected, together with numbers that show the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL) and the ideal goal for public health (MCLG).

While we did see a presence of volatile organic contamination (listed on the chart under "Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts"), this is a by-product of disinfecting the water with chlorine. Chlorine is still the most-accepted and best-available technology for disinfecting drinking water.

TEST RESULTS

Meets/Exceeds Quality Standard	Constituent, Unit of Measurement	Test Date	Detected Level	Range	Regulatory Limit (MCL)	Regulatory Limit Goal (MCLG)	Likely Sources of Constituent
INORGANIC							
✓	Barium, ppm	2002*	0.047	0.044-0.047	2.0	2.0	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
✓	Chloride, ppm	2003*	28.0	28-28	300	300	Erosion of natural deposits
✓	Copper, ppm	2004	0.294	0.004-0.294	AL @ 1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
✓	Fluoride, ppm	2003*	0.4	0.4-0.4	4.0	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
✓	Lead, ppb	2004	0.007	0.0003-0.007	AL @15.0	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
✓	Nitrate, ppm	2004	0.38	0.38-0.38	10.0	10.0	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks & sewage; erosion of natural deposits
✓	Sulfate, ppm	2003*	61.0	61.0-61.0	300	300	Erosion of natural deposits
DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS							
✓	THAAs (Total Haloacetic Acids), ppb	2004	40.99–Avg. of all sampling	21.70-61.30	60	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
✓	TTHMs (Total Trihalomethane), ppb	2004	54.00–Avg. of all sampling	15.30-103.00	80	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
✓	Chloramine, ppm	2004	1.57–Avg. of all sampling	0.50-3.24	4.0	0	Disinfectant used to control microbes
UNREGULATED**							
N/A	Bromoform, ppb	2004	3.30 – Avg.	0.00-3.30	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Bromodichloromethane, ppb	2004	12.29 – Avg.	4.40-24.50	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Chloroform, ppb	2004	38.4 – Avg.	10.90-68.70	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Dibromochloromethane, ppb	2004	2.95 – Avg.	0.00-10.20	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
N/A	Dichlorobromomethane, ppb	2003*	10.81 – Avg.	4.70-41.50	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TURBIDITY							
✓	Turbidity, NTU	2004	0.06	0.03-0.20	1	0	Soil runoff

* These test dates reflect the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

** The City of West University Place has participated this year in gathering data under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) in order to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of possible drinking water contaminants. If any unregulated contaminants were detected, they are shown in this table. This data may also be found on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod.html> or you can call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

KEY

ppb	Parts per billion
ppm	Parts per million
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water MCLs are set as low to the goals as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
AL	Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units – a measurement of particles in the water

Your water source

Your water is a blend of 80% surface water and 20% groundwater.

The surface water is purchased from the City of Houston, where it is pumped from Houston's Southwest Surface Water Treatment Plant.

The groundwater comes from three water wells owned and operated by the City of West University Place. The wells pump water from about 560 feet down, drawing from the Evangeline Aquifer located in the Gulf Coastal Sands.

How substances enter the water

As rain and other water travels over land and sinks through the ground into aquifers, the water dissolves certain naturally occurring minerals, and breaks down naturally occurring radioactive materials. This water may also pick up dissolved substances resulting from the presence of plants, animals or human activity.



City of West University Place
Public Works Operations
3826 Amherst
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GIS Mapping Now Available

You can now review online maps of the City of West University Place. Explore the new interactive Geographical Information System (GIS) at www.westu.org (link on home page). Use the GIS for locations of roads, parks, and other city facilities such as police, fire station, fire hydrants, and City Hall. GIS also provides parcel and tax information. Zoning information may be available in the future.

Additional Health Information

Immune system disorders

Some people may be more vulnerable than others to constituents in drinking water. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, those who have undergone organ transplants, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek drinking water advice from their health care providers.

Lead

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. You might also wish to flush your tap for ½ to 2 minutes before using tap water. Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 for more information.

How to Get Involved

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The public is welcome at regular City Council Meetings, which occur the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 3800 University Blvd., City of West University Place. Get more information about these meetings at www.westu.org or by calling 713-662-5839.

